

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in the present application. By this Reply, Applicants have amended claims 8, 10, 11, 20 and 22, and have canceled claims 47 and 48. Accordingly, claims 1-46 remain at issue.

The Examiner rejected claims 8-11 and 22-46 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner also rejected claims 47-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by reference WO97/18636 to Mizuno, Yoshiro et al., and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Elektronik, No. 8, "Internet Access to Lon", pp. 60-68. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner has also acknowledged that claims 1-7 were allowed, and that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2.

In view of the Amendments and Remarks herein, Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests notice of same.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

The Examiner rejected claims 8-11 and 22-46 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In view of the above amendments to these claims, Applicants respectfully assert that these rejections are now moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 10, 11 and 22 as having insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claims 8, 10, 11 and 22 to provide sufficient antecedent basis. In view of the amendments to these claims, and in view of the fact that no prior art rejections have been asserted against these claims, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims, as well as all claims dependent on these claims are now patentable. Accordingly, Applicant's respectfully assert that claims 1-7, which have already been identified as being allowable by the Examiner, as well as claims 8-46, are now allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments made herein and the foregoing remarks, it is submitted this application is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. Further, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions concerning this Response or if it will expedite the progress of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 12, 2005

By: 

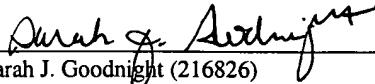
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